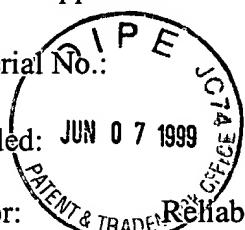


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Fusen Chen, et al. §  
Serial No.: 08/856,116 §  
Filed: JUN 07 1999 May 14, 1997 §  
For: Reliability Barrier Integration §  
for CU Application §



Group Art Unit: 2814

Examiner: Bernard Souw

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on June 3, 1999, with the U. S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

6/3/99   
Date Keith M. Tackett

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 3, 1999**

In response to the Office Action dated March 3, 1999, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 3, 1999, Applicants confirm election of claims 1-18 and 20, and request reconsideration of the pending claims as discussed below.

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Applicants propose correcting the drawings as shown in a separate drawing amendment. A copy of each proposed drawings is attached to this response. Applicants have corrected Figs. 3, 10, 11, and 12 to remove the first barrier layer at the bottom of the plug. Figs. 4 and 5 are amended to show that the second barrier layer is deposited at the bottom of the plug. The Applicants have further corrected Fig. 17 to remove the last row of boxes which are not discussed in the specification.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows: